

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

A printing control method for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control method comprising the steps of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print based on the order information is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or a manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, in accordance with the content of the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case whether the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 2. (Original)

A printing control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

Claim 3. (Original)

A printing control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of judging is carried out by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

Claim 4. (Original)

A printing control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the order information includes information indicating whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended)

A printing control apparatus for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving the order information;

judgment means for judging whether a print based on the order information is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing, for which the

confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, in accordance with the content of the order information;

instruction means for issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

confirmation means for suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 6. (Original)

A printing control apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

Claim 7. (Original)

A printing control apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the judgment means judges by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

Claim 8. (Original)

A printing control apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the order information includes information indicating whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended)

A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a printing control method for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the program comprising the procedures of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print based on the order information is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, in accordance with the content of the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 10. (Original)

A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

Claim 11. (Original)

A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the procedure of judging is a procedure of judging by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

Claim 12. (Original)

A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the order information includes information regarding whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended)

A printing control method for controlling print output of an image, the image being represented by a digital image from digital printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control method comprising the steps of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or a manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case whether the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended)

A printing control apparatus for controlling print output of an image, the image being represented by a digital image from digital printing means based on

order information regarding the print output, the printing control apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving the order information;

judgment means for judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information;

instruction means for issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

confirmation means for suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended)

A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a printing control method for controlling print output of an image, the image being represented by a digital image from digital printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the program comprising the procedures of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing , for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing , for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended)

A printing control apparatus for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving the order information;

judgment means for judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing, for which the confirmation of the



content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information;

instruction means for issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information;

confirmation means for suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing; and

printing control means for controlling the printing operation in the printing means in accordance with the printing instruction.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended)

The printing control apparatus of claim 5, wherein the printing means that carries out the printing is dedicated to automatic printing ~~carries out the printing.~~

Claim 19. (Currently Amended)

The printing control apparatus of claim 5, wherein the printing means that carries out the printing is dedicated to manual printing ~~carries out the printing.~~

Claim 20. (Previously Presented)

The printing control method of claim 1, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of automatic printing, image data is obtained from a database and included, along with the order information, as part of the printing instruction.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented)

The printing control method of claim 1, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of manual printing, the order information is sent to a confirmation means that temporarily stores the order information during the suspension of the printing instruction.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)

The printing control apparatus of claim 5, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of automatic printing, image data is obtained from a

database and included, along with the order information, as part of the printing instruction.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented)

The printing control apparatus of claim 5, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of manual printing, the order information is sent to a confirmation means that temporarily stores the order information during the suspension of the printing instruction.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented)

The computer- readable recording medium of claim 9, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of automatic printing, image data is obtained from a database and included, along with the order information, as part of the printing instruction.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented)

The computer-readable recording medium of claim 9, wherein when the prints have been judged to be a target of manual printing, the order information is sent to a confirmation means that temporarily stores the order information during the suspension of the printing instruction.